

THE ECUMENICAL COURIER



SEPTEMBER — OCTOBER, 1955

VOL. 14, NO. 5

WILL EXPLORE "NATURE OF UNITY WE SEEK"

What is the real nature of the unity for which the churches are searching? This will be the theme of a continent-wide study conference now being planned for September 4-11, 1957, under the auspices of the United States Conference for the World Council of Churches, with the cooperation of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A., and the Canadian Council of Churches.

Some 400 persons—theological professors, preachers, church administrators, laymen and laywomen—will be chosen to represent their churches at the meeting, which will take place on one of the United States college or seminary campuses. Over thirty million Christians of the Protestant and Orthodox faiths are represented in the membership of the sponsoring bodies.

Bishop Angus Dun of Washington Cathedral, Washington, D.C., will be chairman of the Conference, and Dr. Eugene Carson Blake has been chosen vice-chairman. Dr. Paul Minear, of Andover Newton Theological School, will act as conference secretary, devoting part time to the study preparations while continuing his academic responsibilities.

Theme of the Conference has been announced as "The Nature of the Unity We Seek." Most Christians, while deploring the divisions among Christ's followers, are confused as to the exact nature of the unity the churches hope to achieve. Some talk of "spiritual unity" which has little to do with organizational structure; others want

*Dr. Paul Minear
Secretary for
Study and Program
of the
North American
Conference on
Faith and Order*



the churches to work together in a sort of loose federation; still others declare the Church must be satisfied with nothing less than full organic unity.

Because the churches of North America represent such diverse denominational patterns, and also because they have a long history of working together through local, state and national councils, it is felt that an exploration of this subject by them may prove valuable for the whole ecumenical movement.

\$260,000 GIFT FOR STUDY DIVISION

A gift of \$260,000 from John D. Rockefeller, Jr., to the World Council of Churches, will make it possible to carry on an international study and appraisal of Christian responsibility in areas of rapid social change—notably in countries of Asia and Africa—during the coming three years.

Director of the World Council's Study Division, which will direct the study, is Dr. Robert S. Bilheimer, of New York, who was the Executive for the Second Assembly of the World Council of Churches which met in Evanston, Illinois, last year. He is now an Associate General Secretary of the World Council with offices in Geneva, Switzerland. The Assembly created the Division of Studies, with Dr. Bilheimer as its head, to coordinate ecumenical studies in the fields of Christian unity, the responsibility of the churches in social and international problems, and evangelism. The Study Division defines its task as "to arouse Christian thinking and action in regard to issues of world import, about which there is not sufficient clarity or unity of thought." It aims to carry out its program through international and interdenominational consultations, conferences, regional study commissions, team visitations and publications.

The gift from Mr. Rockefeller includes grants for the following purposes:

1. For the special study of the Christian responsibility in areas of "rapid social change," especially in Asia, Africa and Latin America. This is the main project of the Division of Studies for the next three years.

2. For other study projects in the field of the Unity of the Church, the World Mission of the Church and Christianity and War.

3. For housing accommodations for the staff of the Ecumenical Institute at Chateau de Bossey. The Ecumenical Institute was established ten years ago with the help of an initial gift from Mr. Rockefeller, as a center of conferences, retreats and studies in the interest of world-wide Christian cooperation and service.

The study of Christian Responsibility in areas of rapid social change was formulated in the conviction that "the churches of the ecumenical movement are concerned with the spiritual and moral foundations on which new societies are being built. They are concerned with the as-

sumptions about man and society which underlie social policies and programs. They are concerned that Christians have an opportunity to discuss the problems involved and to get the true facts of the situation."

Commenting on the necessity for undertaking this particular study at the earliest possible moment, Dr. Bilheimer said:

"The depth and suddenness of social changes in these areas present unprecedented and perplexing problems. The deep changes in community life, political problems involved in independence, growing industrialization and relations with the West, present issues in which the Christian contribution can be significant. In many countries Christians have an important and even disproportionate share of the leadership."

How missions, private agencies and governments can make their accumulated store of experience or economic aid available without embarrassing or offending the countries which need this help, is one phase of the problem.

Within the framework of the Study Division the study will be related specifically to the Department of Church and Society, of which Dr. Egbert de Vries, Economic Advisor of the World Bank, is chairman, and the Rev. Paul Abrecht is executive secretary.

Reporting the concern of the Department to the World Council's Central Committee, which met in Davos, Switzerland, during the past month, Dr. de Vries said:

"Two-thirds of the peoples of the world are involved in a struggle for better economic conditions and for new foundations of society conducive to human dignity. Their problems and difficulties must be seen as world problems, and Christians must show that they are concerned about man and his needs wherever he lives."

The proposed study on "The Unity of the Church" will help set up regional conferences to bring into the open "the most difficult of concrete issues in the whole field of church unity." Clergy and laity will participate in these discussions on a broader basis than has been attempted in the past, according to Dr. Robert Nelson, Secretary for Faith and Order.

Another study will survey the development

ANNUAL LUNCHEON OF THE "FRIENDS"

"Friends" of the World Council and their friends will hear two outstanding speakers at the annual luncheon meeting (see legal notice on page 6) at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 73rd Street and Madison Avenue, New York City, at 1 p.m., on December 13, 1955.

Speakers for the occasion will be Dr. Leslie Cooke, new Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees of the World Council, whose office is in Geneva, Switzerland, and Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, Stated Clerk of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), President of the National Council of the Churches of Christ in the U.S.A. and a member of the Executive and Central Committees of the World Council of Churches. Dr. Cooke will speak on "The New Look in Inter-Church Aid." Dr. Blake's topic is "The World Council Is Not an Extra."

Reservations for the 1 o'clock luncheon (\$2.25) should be made with the New York office of the World Council.

of one of the "younger churches" of Asia, and will be carried on jointly with the International Missionary Council. A pilot study project of this character is already under way in Uganda. "The native churches of the East and Africa hold the key to the effective fulfillment of the Church's world mission," the Study Division stated in defining this project. "Yet they are caught up in the great changes of the present revolutionary scene, frequently by forces and problems which all but defy their strength. Careful assessment of their present position, structure, function and resources is required, in order that their strength may be used to the full."

In carrying out the study of "The Church and War" a "high-level commission" of lay and clergy leaders will attempt to draft a statement on this all-important subject, which will then be submitted for consideration by Christians throughout the world. "The great intensification of war destruction," says the statement setting forth the plans, "and the increased totalitarianism of war, especially in the light of nuclear warfare . . . constitute an urgent and profound challenge to the Christian conscience. Perhaps no more urgent problem confronts mankind."

Eleanor Roosevelt Receives Award for Refugee Work



On a recent visit to Switzerland (September 15) Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt was the recipient of the Nansen Medal Award for outstanding service to the cause of refugees. The medal was presented by Dr. G. J. Van Heuven Goedhart, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and chairman of the awards committee, in the Council Chamber of the Palais des Nations, Geneva. Representatives of religious voluntary agencies concerned with refugees attended the ceremony; included in the group was Dr. Leslie Cooke, Associate General Secretary of the World Council of Churches and Director of the Division of Inter-Church Aid and Service to Refugees. *(Picture shows Dr. Van Heuven Goedhart, left; Dr. Cooke, right.)*

Queen Juliana also received the Nansen Medal Award which was accepted in her behalf by the Netherlands minister to Switzerland, Baron Bentinck.

The Nansen Award is named after the late Dr. Fridtjof Nansen, Norwegian explorer and first League of Nations High Commissioner for Refugees. Mr. Odd Nansen, son of Dr. Nansen, represented the Norwegian Government at the ceremony.

FOR CHRISTMAS

WHY NOT MAKE YOUR FRIEND A "FRIEND OF THE WORLD COUNCIL"?

"Friends," as our readers know, support the ecumenical movement "to the extent their own resources and interest dictate." A contribution of \$2 or more in your friend's name will make him or her a "Friend." Each "Friend" will receive the *Ecumenical Courier* regularly, beginning with the Nov.-Dec. 1955, issue and lasting through 1956. Friends who live in the New York area may attend the yearly meeting, to be held on Dec. 13. (Cost of luncheon is of course extra.)

In addition, if you add \$1, we will send your friend one of the beautiful "Oikoumene" pins—a small silver and blue lapel pin for the men, or a lovely ceramic brooch for the ladies. And with the pin we will enclose a gift card saying that it is part of the gift from you of a membership in the "Friends of the World Council."

Legal Notice of Meeting of

FRIENDS OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, INC.

The regular Annual Meeting of the FRIENDS OF THE WORLD COUNCIL OF CHURCHES, INC., will be held at 1 p.m. on Tuesday, December 13, 1955, at the Madison Avenue Presbyterian Church, 73rd Street and Madison Avenue (921 Madison Ave.), New York City. At this meeting business will be transacted, reports of the year's work made, and members of the Board of Directors elected.

Attest: HENRY SMITH LEIPER, Secretary.



This picture shows Bishop Sante Uberto Barbieri, one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches, visiting the Leadership Training Work Camp held at Pedra Sonora in Brazil, July 2-3. The flags in the background indicate the nations represented at the work camp. The project was the construction of a youth center in the evangelical settlement of Pedra Sonora.

THE ECUMENICAL COURIER is a bi-monthly bulletin published by the United States Conference of the World Council of Churches, 156 Fifth Avenue, New York 10, N. Y. Elsie Thomas Culver, Secretary for Public Relations, editor. The Council unites 164 Anglican, Orthodox and Protestant communions in 47 countries. Neither the COURIER nor the World Council of Churches is responsible for opinions quoted in its columns.

347

World Council of Churches

ROOM 1005

156 Fifth Avenue

New York 10, N. Y. Library-Pacific School of Religion, New York, N. Y.

1798 Scenic Ave.

Berkley, Calif.

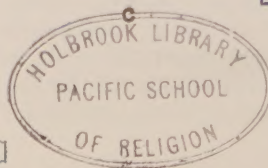
SEC. 34.65(e), P. L. & R.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

New York, N. Y.

Permit No. 3103



C.C.I.A. Position On Major U.N. Issues

A memorandum on issues of concern to the churches in the Tenth Session of the U.N. General Assembly was sent to some 600 U.N. Assembly delegates on the eve of the 10th Anniversary Session, by the New York office of the Commission of the Churches on International Affairs. The memorandum, which was also sent to church leaders in 70 countries, summarizes the background of 32 items on the provisional agenda of the U.N. Assembly, and relates to these certain pertinent ecumenical statements which offer a basis for the C.C.I.A. position.

Particular emphasis is placed on the importance of disarmament and related processes of peaceful settlement and peaceful change. The memorandum also cites new actions by the C.C.I.A. Executive Committee bearing on technical and financial assistance for underdeveloped countries, action to safeguard human rights, measures to care for and resettle refugees, the application of the principle of self-determination, and the question of universality of U.N. membership. The Commission will be represented at the Assembly by Dr. O. Frederick Nolde, Dr. Richard M. Fagley, Dr. Elfan Rees, and Mr. A. Dominique Micheli.

* * * *

A Youth Department of the Malayan Christian Council has been set up to assist youth fellowships throughout the country by promoting leadership training courses, ecumenical work camps, and literature; and by providing opportunity of fellowship and service among the different denominational youth movements.

* * * *

Bishop James Coucouzes, who was consecrated as titular Bishop of Melita in Constantinople in February, has arrived in Geneva to take up his appointment as liaison representative of the Ecumenical Patriarch at the headquarters of the World Council of Churches.

* * * *

Dr. Nils Ehrenstrom, former secretary of the World Council of Churches' study department at Geneva, has been named Professor of Ecumenics at the Boston University School of Theology. Dr. Ehrenstrom will take up his new duties in September.

45 Millions Are Affected By India-Pakistan Flood



—Red Cross photo

Forty-five million persons in India and Pakistan have had their dwellings invaded by floods, among the worst in the history of Asia. The floods in the Bramaputra, Ganges and Indus river basins were caused by continuous torrential downpours in the rainy or monsoon season, coupled with volumes of melted snow water rushing down from the Himalayas. This picture shows a typical sight in the daily life of thousands of flooded Indian and Pakistani villages since mid-August. Hundreds of other villages in low-lying areas have been totally destroyed. Medicines, clothing, food have been sent on request through the World Council of Churches and Church World Service, and are being distributed through local committees.

* * * *

The United Bible Societies have announced the appointment of the Rev. E. H. Robertson, formerly Assistant Head of Religious Broadcasting of the B.B.C., to the post of Research Secretary.

* * * *

Over fifty Greek Orthodox churches and a number of small chapels in Istanbul and the surrounding neighborhood were seriously damaged during the recent riots. Spokesmen for the Greek Orthodox Archdiocese of North America estimated the total damage at \$100,000,000, and pointed out that many of the churches destroyed date back to the Byzantine era and that the historic and cultural loss was inestimable. Attacks on Greek priests, schools and cemeteries were involved.

BOOKS

- Religious Symbolism* edited by F. Ernest Johnson. (Harper & Bros., New York, \$2.50.) A distinguished list of contributors point up some of the implications for this newly exciting field—for instance in the starry heavens, liturgy, man's psychological processes, and contemporary literature.
- Communicating the Gospel* by Halford E. Luccock. (Harper, New York, 177 pp. \$2.50.) For Simeon Stylites fans, perhaps no greater compliment is possible than to say they will not find this volume (including the chapter on "Preaching During an Earthquake") disappointing.
- Fools for Christ* by Jaroslav Pelikan. (Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia, 172 pp. \$3.00.) Through the study of Kierkegaard, Paul, Dostoevsky, Luther, Nietzsche, and Bach, the author points up the fallacy of identifying God exclusively with even such concepts as goodness, truth, and beauty—all of which He transcends.
- Pattern of Things to Come* edited by Dorothy McConnell. (Friendship Press, New York, cloth \$1.50, paper 75¢.) Out of the panels, discussions and speeches of many church leaders at the Boston meeting of the Division of Foreign Missions, the author has chosen some of the most stimulating "patterns" to present as a guide to our thinking about the future of missions and the Church.
- A Basic History of Lutheranism in America* by Abdel Ross Wentz. (Muhlenberg Press, Philadelphia, 381 pp. plus copious bibliography and index, \$5.00.) Definitive history of all branches of Lutheranism from colonial days to the present.
- Introducing Hinduism* by Malcolm Pitt. (Friendship Press, New York, 60 pp. 60¢.) One of a series of popular introductions on the basic facts about living religions. Previously published: *Introducing Islam* by J. Christy Wilson. In preparation: *Introducing Buddhism* by Kenneth Scott Latourette.
- Mark's Witness to Jesus Christ* by Eduard Lohse. *Christianity and Science* by Charles Raven. (Association Press, 291 Broadway, New York, \$1.25 each.) These are two volumes of "World Christian Book" series sponsored by the I.M.C.
- Issues Before the Tenth General Assembly* an editorial staff analysis by the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. (Carnegie Endowment, New York, 160 pp., 25¢.)
- The United Nations—And How It Works* by David Cushman Coyle. (Signet Key Book published in connection with the 10th anniversary of the U.N. 35¢.) A brilliant report on the structure and activities of the U.N., including the specialized agencies like the International Labor Organization, UNESCO, World Health Organization and Food and Agriculture Organization. Factual, but written with warm enthusiasm that makes it pleasant reading.
- Catholic, Protestant, Jew* by Will Herberg. (Doubleday & Co., Inc., Garden City, New York, 320 pp. \$4.00.) Is religion on the upswing, or are Americans merely giving a token vote of confidence to the power of faith and the need to "belong"? What do we really believe? These are some of the larger questions raised and discussed in this significant new book.
- The Early Church and the Coming Great Church* by John Knox. (Abingdon Press, Nashville, 110 pp., \$2.50) Disciples Divinity House, University of Chicago, Hoover lectures on Christianity.
- Christian Ethics* edited by Waldo Beach and H. Richard Niebuhr. (The Ronald Press Company, New York.) Half of the volume consists of readings, in which the crucial insights of major Christian thinkers are presented in their own words. The editors furnish full introductions to each chapter. There is a concluding survey of current ethical trends.
- The Church of Finland Through Eight Hundred Years* by Suomalaisen Kirjallisuuden Seura (Kirjapainon Oy., Helsinki, 1955. Designed by J. K. V. Paasio. Beautifully printed and illustrated. 40 pp.)